



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

these cycadaceous plants, as well as some of the conifers, are identical with species described by Heer from the Jurassic of Siberia, while others occur in the Lower Cretaceous of Greenland. The almost world-wide *Podozamites lanceolatus* is very characteristic, and there are leaves of *Salisburia Sibirica*, a Siberian Mesozoic species, and branches of *Sequoia Smittiana*, a species characteristic of the Lower Cretaceous of Greenland. No dicotyledonous leaves have been found in these beds, whose plants connect in a remarkable way the extinct floras of Asia and America and those of the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods.

*Merulius lacrimans*—the Dry Rot.—A short time before his death, Prof. H. R. Goppert, of Breslau, in connection with the chemist, Professor Poleck, made a study of the *hausschwamm*—a fungus commonly known with us as dry rot, which had caused great injury to buildings in Northern Germany. The results of their combined studies now appear in a pamphlet by Professor Poleck (Der Hausschwamm, Breslau, 1885). The dry rot, *Merulius lacrimans*, seems to be unknown in a wild state in Germany, but is confined to woodwork of different kinds, and attacks by preference coniferous timber. Strange to say, the fungus does not usually infest old structures, but generally makes its appearance in comparatively new buildings; and a startling series of figures shows the amount of damage done in the region of Breslau. Chemical analyses by Poleck show that the *Merulius* is particularly rich in nitrogenous compounds and fat, which is rather remarkable when one considers the chemical constituents of the timber on which it grows. Injury to health, or even death, is said to result from exposure to air containing large quantities of the spores of the fungus; and several authenticated cases are reported. In a supplementary note, Poleck considers the relationship of *Merulius* to *Actinomyces*, a fungus which causes a characteristic disease in man and cattle; and he apparently comes to the conclusion that what is called *Actinomyces* is probably only the *Merulius* altered by the peculiar matrix on which it is growing. His statements on this point can hardly be called conclusive, or, in fact other than vague.

### Botanical Literature.

*A Revision of the North American Species of the Genus Scleria.* By N. L. Britton, Ph.D. 8vo, pamph. pp. 8. (From the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, iii., 7.)

*Criticisms on J. Kruttschnitt's Papers and Preparations relating to Pollen-tubes.* By N. L. Britton. 8vo, pamph., pp. 10. (From the *Journal of the New York Microscopical Society*.)

*The Grape-Rot.* By Wm. Trelease. 8vo, pamph., pp., 9. (From *Transactions of Wisconsin State Horticultural Society*.)

*Hypericum Japonicum*, Thunb., in *Deutschland gefunden*. Von R. v. Uechtritz und P. Ascherson. 8vo, pamph., pp. 10. (From *Berichte der Deutschen Botanischen Gesellschaft*.)